This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for controlling access to a product, the method comprising:

   (a)   receiving a request for a product from a requestor;

   (b)   generating, substantially at the time the request is received, a license string that controls access to the product, the license string being generated by encoding at least one of: (i) information associated with the product; and (ii) information associated with the request, wherein generating the license string comprises using a cryptographic process to generate the license string that controls access to the product and wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding at least one of:

   a date creation of the product;

   a version of the product;

   a date of the request; and

   (c)   transmitting the license string to the requestor.

2.   (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the request comprises receiving the request via a distributed communications network.

3.   (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the request comprises receiving payment information from the requestor.

4.   (Previously amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising verifying the received payment information.

5.   (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim [5] 1 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding a character text string.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim [5] 1 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string, the license string being encoded as an upper case alphanumeric string excluding capital O, capital I, and numbers 0 and 1.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim [5] 1 wherein the license string includes validation information.

10. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the license string controls access to a single facility.

11. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the license string controls access to a plurality of facilities.

12. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein transmitting the license string to the requestor comprises transmitting the license string to the requestor via a distributed communications network.

13. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the product functions for only a predetermined period of time if the license string is not entered into the product.

14. (Previously amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the license string enables the product to function beyond the predetermined period of time.

15-50 (Canceled)